

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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UP-TOWN OFFICE, 433 EAST BROAD STREET.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1891.

A Government Telegraph.

One of the "postal reforms" which the public will hear much about until these reforms are accomplished is the proposition to limit the use of telegraph under Government control. This is one of the numerous "paternal" schemes which will continue to be advocated by the masses until they secure the object they have in view. Public schools are the most paternal of institutions; but nobody objects to them for that reason. At any rate the objection to them is too feeble to attract general attention. Gas-works, water-works, pavements, public markets and many other things are examples of paternalism, or, if you prefer the word, "communism." A Government telegraphic system cannot be more paternal than a public-school system.

One of our exchanges objects to a postal telegraph that the masses of the people who toil in the fields and workshops do not make personal use of the telegraph from one year's end to another except to send an occasional social message. True enough. That is the very reason we desire the General Government to take possession of the telegraphic and postal systems. Telegraphic facilities will be used by everybody, not once a year merely, but once a day. In our paper it was stated a few days ago that the free delivery of mail matter in small towns had been proved to be a successful reform, and one which the people concerned recognized as a benefit to them. It was added that the people were well pleased with the experiment, and that they would probably insist upon it that their congressmen should make it a part of the postal system. Besides, in a number of small places the increase in the use of the postal office had been so great as to result in causing even small towns to pay back to the Government the additional cost of delivering the mail matter free.

Results still more remarkable would probably follow the addition of a telegraph to the postal system of the United States. The Government could not at once supply every village or hamlet in the United States, but in this case as in so many others increase of appetite would grow where it fed on, and the new system would work out grand results. Telegraph-operators and postmasters and station agents are already numbered by the thousands. The Federal Government would have to allow the new system to grow just as the Post-Office Department has grown up to be the largest feature of that Government.

It is objected further that the bulk of money which it would be necessary to send upon a postal telegraph would be too great to be borne by the Government. This is a very well. Let the industrial and laboring classes be consulted on this subject and it will be found that they have sense enough to know that they can empower them to send five or ten cents a message which it now costs them a dollar to send would be to render their earnings more valuable to them. It is reproachful for monopolists to attempt to make it appear that they are working in the interest of the masses when their whole object is to monopolize the telegraphic business in the interest of the speculators who have already made so many millions of dollars out of it. We can say with these smothered gentlemen that the lower Government has to do with the private affairs of the people the better for both Government and people; but we beg leave to add that the postal telegraph is not to be private affair, but a Government blessing falling upon all, high and low, rich and poor.

Extended Street-Car Service. If the broad-street car line is allowed to be extended to the Exposition grounds in one direction and to Chimborazo Park in the other, we will never hear anything more about the "broad-street viaduct." The latter scheme, when it had most vitality, did not receive the expected support from the east end of the city, and such a line as is proposed now would completely "smother" it.

Church and Union Hills ought to be thickly populated. No other section of the city can compare with them in natural beauty, but the valley of Shockoe Creek and the wall-like hills which rise therefrom make communication with the west end difficult, and for many years Richmond's growth was altogether up town. But since the Union car line was built, Church and Union Hills have enjoyed great prosperity. Hundreds of new houses have been erected there and it is noteworthy that the census shows that the district of Henrico county which has made by far the greatest increase in population, is Fairfield, which adjoins Jefferson and Marshall wards.

This portion of Richmond--so deserving of municipal favor, yet upon which so few have been bestowed--is still cut off from direct communication with Main street by some incomprehensible policy. In other words, Manchester has advantages which are denied our East-End hills. But at last the people are becoming aroused to the injustice of what they are made to suffer. In addition to the car line from other locality, and at a meeting of the Street Committee night before last a petition was presented to it, and by it referred to a sub-committee, asking that the car line be extended down Twenty-first to Main.

Others declare that they should stop whenever halted. The enforcement of the former plan would, we suppose, give great offence until the community thoroughly understood it. It would take a long time to teach it to our dear friends, the ladies. Now they can stop a car anywhere between cross-streets, and sometimes they exercise the privilege to call a halt before the car has gone twenty yards from its last stop.

Let us show more appreciation of the law. It is a very simple matter to stop a car, but it is no easy matter to stop a custom which has existed for years and years. The car is a very useful thing, and it is no easy matter to stop a custom which has existed for years and years.

Interstate Commerce. We mentioned yesterday the wonderful growth which has been attained by that little clause of the Federal Constitution which provides in a dozen words that the Congress shall have power to regulate commerce among the several States.

These few words carry an incredible amount of legislation and social explanation and interpretation. Sunday laws, or State laws prohibiting the running of freight trains out of one State into another on Sunday, are some of the statutes which the clause is about quoted will not allow the several States to enforce. State laws interfering with interstate telegraph or telephone lines stand protected by the same clause.

Mr. Morriss, for the Interstate Commerce Commission, announced that the commission has decided to make a report on the subject of the interstate commerce law, and that it will be ready in a few days. The commission has decided to make a report on the subject of the interstate commerce law, and that it will be ready in a few days.

Probable Fatal Rencontre. Mr. John Criswell, shot by Major George Criswell, lodged in jail. (Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

A Virginia Poetess Aged Ten. (From an Editorial.) Danville has men and women of great business tact, men and women of learning and of culture, men and women of letters, and writers, and to cap it all, a woman, having just attained her tenth year. Her name is Miss Sue Schofield, the daughter of Mr. J. H. Schofield, a well-known merchant of the Virginia Assembly, and a man well known throughout the State. I send you the three stanzas, her own composition:

As I walked in the garden one day, And the flowers were wet with dew, Among all the beautiful blossoms There was one like a day-daisy.

Is This Another Gobbler? The railroad sensation in Birmingham, says the Atlanta Constitution, is the report that the Richmond and Norfolk Railway Company has been offered for sale to the Georgia Pacific Railroad Company. The report, the Atlanta Constitution says, is well founded, as it is known that negotiations have been pending for some time between the two companies. The Georgia Pacific Railroad Company is a powerful corporation, and its acquisition of the Richmond and Norfolk Railway Company would be a great gain to it.

Our Securities. It is a trite remark that nobody can tell how many millions of dollars of gold and silver are kept at par with gold by the law which puts government bonds and internal revenue stamps of the country. Possibly a thousand million of dollars. Yet we are all the time in fear of a fall to silver basis. But we have gold to spare, or at any rate we have spared fifty millions of it recently. We have silver to sell, and cotton and tobacco which cannot be had in any other country, and must therefore be sent from here.

A Pennsylvania Pair. Pennsylvania's two newest senators, Gray and WALKER, are just now traveling round the State. Of the former it is said that he is too mean to stay in the Republic can party. No greater insult has ever been leveled at any man. As to the latter it is shown that if he did not help to rob the Philadelphia bank which lost iron.

The Turning Point. With many a man a true art, and a more recommendation of some friend to try, S. S. S. has saved the lives of hundreds. (Advertisement for S. S. S. medicine)

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THE COHEN COMPANY. (Advertisement for The Cohen Company)

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